

July 27, 1952

Dr. W. R. Singleton  
Genetics Society of America  
Brookhaven National Laboratory  
Upton, L.I., N.Y.

Dear Dr. Singleton:

I have your letter of July 15, asking for a revision or confirmation of a statement of principle in connection with the election for the Committee on Scientific Freedom and Public Education of the Genetics Society of America. I learned from your letter, for the first time, that Curt Stern was the other nominee (presumably the choice of the executive committee sitting as a committee on nominations).

I have decided to withdraw in favor of Dr. Stern. My feelings on the functioning of the special committee are the same as they were in 1950. At that time, it seemed probable that the committee might assume doctrinal functions that I thought would have unfortunate consequences for genetics. The actions of the committee during the past two years, and the choices by the Society for membership on the committee, have affirmed a thoughtful policy with which I am in accord. I have the fullest confidence in Dr. Stern's judgment, and feel that the society should have the benefit of this and of his experience in the society's affairs.

As the duly nominated alternative candidate, I conclude that my withdrawal should leave no contest. If you wish, you may enter the previous paragraph as my formal statement. If a contest is essential, it would be appropriate to look for candidates who have distinctive views, between which the membership may make a considered choice. If, as I suspect, the Society's views are so coherent at the present time that it would be difficult to find such candidates, it might be time to consider discharging the committee and transferring its functions to the Executive Committee, subject to instructions from the membership.

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg

CC: C. Stern